could possibly do. The head-quarters of the Peermade taluk was at Peermade, 32 miles distant from the western border. The area of the five western *pakuthies*, namely, Manimala, Cheruvalli, Chirakadavu, Kanjirappalli and Poonjar, which were in low country, was 210·41 sq. miles. There were no native houses or habitations at Peermade and the place was at an elevation of 3,000 ft. The courts and other Sirkar institutions of the five western *pakuthies* had their transactions with the treasuries of Changanacherry, Kottayam or Meenachil in preference to Peermade owing to the inaccessibility of the latter place. The Member, therefore, prayed that the five western *pakuthies* mentioned above might be separated from the Peermade taluk and formed into a new taluk with Kanjirappalli as its head-quarters. The proposal would not entail any additional expenditure to Government, as, with the formation of a new taluk and the appointment of a Tahsildar with First Class Magisterial powers, the First Class Magistrate's Court at Kanjirappalli and the Stationary Magistrate's Court at Mundakayam could be abolished. The Member prayed that speedy effect might be given to his proposal.

Dewan's reply.—There is some force in what the Member says. His representation will be considered.

(2) Forest Revenue.

13. Desirability of throwing open for cultivation portions of the Reserves in the Ranni and Kumpazha *pakuthies*.

Mr. S. Perumal Pillai (Member, Chengannur Taluk) said that, until recently, the chief means of livelihood of the people of Ranni and Kumpazha *pakuthies* was the cultivation of portions of Government waste lands and forests. With the reservation of forests under the Forest Regulation in those *pakuthies* and the consequent prohibition of cultivation within them, the condition of the ryots became very miserable. Even the cultivation of lands outside reserved forests was prohibited by the department. The Member prayed that the Eata forests included within the reserved forests in the Ranni, Kumpazha and Pathanamthitta *pakuthies* might be allowed to be cultivated by the permanent residents of those *pakuthies*.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

14. Need for dissafforesting the Thenkotam, Manianthra and Manakad Reserves for purposes of cultivation.

Mr. Mathai Pyli (Member, Thodupuzha Taluk) said that the subject was brought up at the last session also. There were not enough lands suitable for cultivation in the taluk. The unregistered lands still available were rocky and unfit for cultivation. He, therefore, prayed that the Thenkotam, Manianthra and Manakad Reserves, which lay adjoining registered holdings and which did not fetch any appreciable revenue to the Government, might be registered in the names of the people of the taluk on levy of a fixed rate of *tharavila*.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

15. Desirability of applying the Cardamom Rules passed in 1080 to the grazing of cattle and the felling of trees in the Cardamom Hills.

Mr. T. K. Alagiri Raja (Member, Devicolam Taluk) represented that the forest subordinates forced the hill tribes in the Cardamom Hills, known as the Mannans and Muthuvans, into subjection on the pretence of Sirkar work and prevented them from doing their cultivation or earning their wages by cooly labour. They also placed all sorts of obstacles in the way of the hill tribes getting any lands registered in their names. In the case of the Anjanad ryots also, the Forest subordinates interfered similarly and prevented them from resorting to *punja* cultivation in the hills, which they were doing formerly. The Member, therefore, prayed for the following relief measures:—

(1) that stringent orders be issued to the Forest Department not to interfere, in any way, with the hill tribes and the Cardamom ryots in their cultivation ;

(2) that every facility be afforded to the hill tribes for obtaining lands on *pattom* ;

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(3) that the Forest Rules should be confined to the administration of the real forests and should, on no account, be made applicable to the cardamom growing areas ; and

(4) that the Anjanad ryots be permitted to resort to hill cultivation as before.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

16. Damage done to estates by wild elephants.

Mr. W. A. J. Milner (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) who was permitted to represent his Association in the place of Mr. Robert Tait first elected, submitted that considerable damage was done to estates in the planting districts by wild elephants. The damage had been very serious of late everywhere, especially in Vandiperiyar and its neighbourhood, it having amounted to a considerable sum. It did not seem fair that money invested to the benefit of the country should be liable to be lost in that manner and there was no doubt that elephants were steadily increasing in number of recent years, so that urgent action was required, if the evil was to be checked in time.

It was true that, under Section 46 of the Forest Regulation, owners of private property had the right to shoot elephants trespassing on their lands. But planters did not avail themselves of the right, because the Forest Department was in the habit of prosecuting them, if they did so. The Member, therefore, proposed that the second exemption under Section 46 be amended as follows, *viz.*:—

"That persons shooting or wounding elephants in self-defence or for the protection of property shall be exempted from punishment *as well as persons shooting or wounding elephants in reasonable proximity to their property.*"

The Member submitted that, in any case, there should be an immediate enquiry, before prosecution, conducted on the spot by a Magistrate or other responsible person.

Dewan.—I suppose that it is done even now by the Divisional Forest Officer.

Member.—I understand that it is a very subordinate officer that is doing this work. I think that the Mahazar at least should be written by a responsible officer of the department.

The Member concluded by saying that, if adequate protection on the lines suggested could not be given, Government should grant full compensation for all damage done to property.

Dewan's reply.—The Commissioner, Devicolam Division, and the Conservator of Forests, will be consulted before any action is taken.

17. Need for promulgating rules under the Game and Fish Protection Regulation with a view to render its provisions effective.

Mr. A. J. Wright (Member, Kannan Devan Planters' Association) said that, for the past seven years, the subject of Game laws had been before the Assembly in one form or another. He then explained the history of the present legislation on the subject and observed that his object was to draw the attention of Government to the absence of rules contemplated in the Regulation. Last year, the Dewan replied that draft rules had been received from the Conservator of Forests and the Commissioner of Devicolam and were under the consideration of Government. But, so far, nothing had been done.

Dewan.—The question has been referred to the Head Sirkar Vakil for his opinion.

The Member thanked the Dewan and observed that the delay in passing the rules was very much regretted, for no one could prevent the promiscuous slaughter of game going on now.

The Member then referred to his representations at the 9th and 13th sessions of the Assembly when the various aspects of the matter were dealt with. Between the years 1908 and 1913, the Association had spent about Rs. 5,000 in introducing trout into

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